

claim 1 and dependent claims 2 to 32 is requested in view of the above amendment and the remarks herein. Non-elected claims 33 – 44 are cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants invention is an internal combustion engine arrangement having an oxide gas absorber and a control unit which controls engine air fuel mixture for regeneration of the oxide gas absorber and which is arranged to control the temperature of the absorber during regeneration.

In accordance with amended claim 1, the present application is clearly distinguished from the disclosure of Araki, and non-obvious in view of Araki combined with the other references. Araki discloses an arrangement for controlling the temperature of a NOx absorber during normal operation thereof. Such control is for the purpose of maintaining the desired operating temperature within a selected range during the absorption portion of the operating cycle.

In contrast to the Araki system, the invention specified by amended claim 1 provides for control of the temperature of the absorber during the regeneration phase of operation when the engine is operated with a rich mixture for regenerating the absorber. As provided in the amended claim, the control unit is arranged to control the temperature of the absorber to be at least 500°C during regeneration.

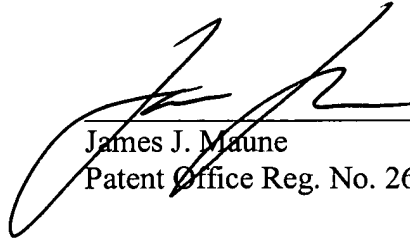
Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the Araki reference, and the dependent claims are not rendered obvious by the Araki reference combined with the teachings of the other references. None of the references teach a control unit arranged to maintain a minimum absorber temperature during regeneration.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the wording of the claims, the Applicant's undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call to discuss them.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 12, 2002



James J. Maune
Patent Office Reg. No. 26,946

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-0228

Attorney for Applicants
(212) 408-2534

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

--1. (Three times Amended) An internal combustion engine arrangement comprising:

a spark-ignited internal combustion engine having a controllable air/fuel ratio;

an exhaust line receiving exhaust gas from the internal combustion engine;

an oxide gas absorber in the exhaust line including a support member; and an absorption layer on a surface of the support member having a total surface area which is larger than that of the underlying area of the support member accessible to exhaust gas flowing through the exhaust line for reversible absorption of at least one nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and [/or] at least one oxide of sulfur (SO_x); and,

a control unit [means] for controlling regeneration of said oxide gas absorber, said control unit being arranged to periodically change said controllable air/fuel ration of said engine to a rich mixture to regenerate said absorber and said control unit being arranged to control the temperature of the absorption layer by adjusting composition parameters of the exhaust gas to cause the absorption layer to be heated to a temperature of at least 500°C [at which the layer is regenerated by] during said regeneration for desorbing absorbed NO_x or SO_x.--